

Reasons and grounds of dissent referred to in amendment carried at Congregational Meeting, held on Wednesday, 17th July, 1867.

As a congregation we feel constrained to enter our solemn dissent both from the action of the Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church, and also, from that of the Presbytery of Montreal, which action has resulted in requiring the discontinuance of the instrument used for the last ten months in aiding the congregational praise on the Sabbath day, and that for the following among other reasons ;—

1st. Because, we believe that the Committee, appointed by the Presbytery in January, 1867, to deal with the Kirk Session of this congregation *anent* the use of said instrument, was not composed of members representing the mind of the whole Presbytery, but only a sectional part, and we complain that the Presbytery should have invited to deal with the office-bearers of this congregation a few members from rural and remote districts, whose views and prejudices in this matter, it was well known, did not harmonize, not only with ours but with those of other congregations of the Presbytery—

2nd We complain that the Presbytery and Synod have acted with apparent partiality in the manner in which they have dealt by the congregation of Knox Church, Montreal. It is well known to the members of both these Bodies that Instrumental aid in praising God is in constant use in many of the families, Sabbath Schools and Weekly Services throughout the church, and also on the Lord's day in some congregations, and yet its use by this congregation could not be tolerated, although the members are *unanimous* in considering it a valuable aid in the Public Praise.

3rd. We deeply regret that we are obliged to complain that the Synod of the C. P. Church has deviated in this matter from its own published laws and regulations.

I. Inasmuch as the Synod sustained an appeal of the Rev. Dun. Cameron, of Lochiel, against the decision of the Presbytery of Montreal, the said decision of Presbytery, so far as it affected the said Rev. Mr. Cameron, being in the judgment of this congregation a just one. We hold that Mr. Cameron was not authorized to proceed by *citation*, and that such was his own belief *originally* is shown by the fact that between the hours of 12 noon and 1 P M, on the day of his appointment, he asked the Moderator of Knox Church Session, if a conference with said session could be had that day, a proceeding which, under the laws laid down *anent* citation in the Book of forms and procedure, was utterly incompetent.*

II. It is further to be noted that Mr. Cameron took no official action in the matter from the time of his appointment in the month of January till the 8th April, when he addressed to the Moderator of Knox Church Session, a citation, *unconstitutional* and *irregular*, unconstitutional because without evidence of his authority on the face of it, and irregular, because proceeding in a way unauthorized by the Presbytery, which citation required the session of Knox Church to appear before Mr. Cameron, and his committee on the 7th day of May, when he and the committee were coming to the city to attend the quarterly meeting of Presbytery, and *not*, as might be inferred, specially to meet the Session of Knox Church.

III. Before the Session could be held as contumacious, even if Mr. Cameron's had been correct in his form of process, the citation should have been repeated thrice, which was not done.

IV. The Presbytery too, after hearing from the commissioners appointed to support the overture on instrumental music, how very *unanimous* the congregation was in desiring the use of the Organ, undertook to pass judgment on the matter without citing either session or congregation to appear for its interests; thereby, as we conceive, not only *contravening* the rules of Procedure, but endangering and jeopardising the peace and harmony of the congregation, all which grave irregularities the Synod sustained

V. Inasmuch as the Synod took action on the reference from the Presbytery

* This request of Mr. Cameron's could not be complied with from the impossibility of calling together Knox Church Session in the afternoon, and the Moderator's having a platform appointment on that evening at the anniversary meeting of the Bible Society.